In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An optical recording medium comprising a substrate, a recording layer and optionally one or more reflecting layers, wherein the recording layer comprises a compound of formula

or a tautomer thereof, wherein

G₁, G₂ and G₃ are each independently of the other

$$A_{4} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{7} \\ R_{10} \\ R_{9} \end{pmatrix} A_{4} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{7} \\ R_{12} \\ R_{8} \end{pmatrix} A_{4} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{7} \\ R_{12} \\ R_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$
or
$$A_{4} = \begin{pmatrix} R_{13} \\ R_{12} \\ R_{11} \end{pmatrix}$$

 A_1 , A_2 and A_3 are each independently of the other $N(R_{14})$, O, S or Se and A_4 is $C(C_1-C_5alkyl)_2$, $C(C_4-C_5alkylene)$, $N(R_{14})$, O, S, Se, $N=C(R_{15})$ or $CH=C(R_{16})$;

M₁ is an at least trivalent metal of groups 3 to 15 [formerly groups IIIA to VB]; , preferably Co(III), Cr(III), Ru(III), Fe(III), Mn(III), V(III), Ti(III), Y(III), Mo(III), W(III), Nb(III), Rh(III), Ta(III), Ir(III), Au(III), Al(III), As(III), Sb(III), Bi(III), Sc(III), La(III), Ce(III), Pr(III), Nd(III), Pm(III), Sm(III), Eu(III), Gd(III), Tb(III), Dy(III), Ho(III), Er(III), Tm(III), Yb(III) or Lu(III), most preferred Co(III) or Cr(III); Q₁, Q₂ and Q₃ are each independently of the other C(R₁₇), N or P;

 R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{16} are each independently of the others hydrogen, R_{18} , or C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_4 - C_{12} heteroaryl, C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl or C_5 - C_{12} heteroaralkyl each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{18} ; or

 R_1 and R_2 , R_3 and R_4 , R_5 and R_6 , R_7 and R_8 , R_7 and R_{15} and/or R_7 and R_{16} , together in pairs, are C_3 - C_6 alkylene or C_3 - C_6 alkenylene, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more,

where applicable identical or different, radicals R₁₉ and may be uninterrupted or interrupted by O, S or

 $N(R_{14})$, or 1,4-buta-1,3-dienylene, or , each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{18} and in which 1 or 2 carbon atoms may have been replaced by nitrogen;

 R_{11} , R_{14} and R_{15} are each independently of the others C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_3 - C_{24} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{24} cycloalkenyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyl-[O- C_1 - C_4 alkylene]_m or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-[NH- C_1 - C_4 alkylene]_m, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{19} ; or C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_4 - C_{12} heteroaryl, C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl or C_5 - C_{12} heteroaralkyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{18} ;

 R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{18} are each independently of the others R_{20} or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkylthio, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkylthio, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{19} ,

 R_{17} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylthio, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkylthio, amino, nitro, formyl, $C(R_{16})$ = $CR_{21}R_{22}$, $C(R_{16})$ = NR_{23} , N= $CR_{23}R_{24}$, NHR_{25} , $NR_{26}R_{27}$, COO- R_{26} , carboxy, carbamoyl, CONH- R_{26} , $CONR_{26}R_{27}$, R_{28} , N=N- R_{28} or R_{29} ;

 R_{19} is halogen, hydroxy, O- R_{26} , O-CO- R_{26} , S- R_{26} , NH₂, NH- R_{26} , NR₂₆R₂₇, NH₃⁺, NH₂R₂₆⁺, NHR₂₆R₂₇⁺, NR₂₅R₂₆R₂₇⁺, NR₂₆-CO- R_{25} , NR₂₆COOR₂₅, cyano, formyl, COO- R_{26} , carboxy, carbamoyl, CONH- R_{26} , CONR₂₆R₂₇, ureido, NH-CO-NHR₂₅, NR₂₆-CO-NHR₂₅, phosphato, PR₂₅R₂₆, POR₂₅OR₂₆, P(=O)OR₂₅OR₂₆, OPR₂₅OR₂₆, OP(=O)R₂₅OR₂₆, OP(=O)OR₂₅OR₂₆, OP(=O)OR₂₅OR₂₆, SO₂R₂₆, sulfato, sulfo, R₂₈, N=N-R₂₈, or C₁-C₁₂alkoxy or C₁-C₁₂cycloalkoxy each unsubstituted or mono- or poly-substituted by halogen;

 $R_{20} \text{ is halogen, nitro, cyano, thiocyanato, hydroxy, } O-R_{23}, O-CO-R_{23}, S-R_{23}, CHO, COR_{24},\\ CHOR_{23}OR_{30}, CR_{24}OR_{23}OR_{30}, R_{31}, N=N-R_{31}, N=CR_{23}R_{24}, N=CR_{21}R_{22}, C(R_{32})=NR_{23}, C(R_{32})=NR_{21},\\ C(R_{32})=CR_{21}R_{22}, NH_2, NH-R_{23}, NR_{23}R_{24}, NH_3^+, NH_2R_{23}^+, NHR_{23}R_{24}^+, NR_{23}R_{24}R_{30}^+, CONH_2, CONHR_{23},\\ CONR_{23}R_{24}, SO_2R_{23}, SO_2NH_2, SO_2NHR_{23}, SO_2NR_{23}R_{24}, COOH, COOR_{23}, OCOOR_{23}, NHCOR_{23},\\ NR_{23}COR_{30}, NHCOOR_{23}, NR_{23}COOR_{30}, ureido, NR_{23}-CO-NHR_{30}, B(OH)_2, B(OH)(OR_{23}), B(OR_{23})OR_{30},\\ R_{23}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30},\\ R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30}, R_{30}COR_{30},\\ R_{31}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{32}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{33}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30},\\ R_{31}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{32}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{33}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30},\\ R_{32}COR_{30}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}COR_{30},\\ R_{34}COR_{30}COR_{30}COR_{30}COR_{30}, R_{34}COR_{30}COR_{30},\\ R_{34}COR_{30$

phosphato, $PR_{23}R_{30}$, $POR_{23}OR_{30}$, $P(=O)OR_{23}OR_{30}$, $OPR_{23}R_{30}$, $OPR_{23}OR_{30}$, $OP(=O)R_{23}OR_{30}$, $OP(=O)R_{23}OR_{30}$, $OPO_{3}R_{23}$, sulfato or sulfo;

R₂₁ and R₂₂ are each independently of the other NR₂₆R₂₇, CN, CONH₂, CONHR₂₃, CONR₂₃R₂₄ or COOR₂₄;

 R_{23} , R_{24} and R_{30} are each independently of the others R_{31} , or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkenyl each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy radicals; or R_{16} and R_{23} together, R_{17} and R_{23} together and/or R_{23} and R_{30} together are C_2 - C_{12} alkylene, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkylene, C_2 - C_{12} alkenylene or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkenylene, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy radicals; or

 R_{23} and R_{24} together with the common nitrogen are pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine or morpholine, each of which is unsubstituted or mono- to tetra-substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl; or carbazole, phenoxazine or phenothiazine, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{33} ;

 R_{25} , R_{26} and R_{27} are each independently of the others C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkenyl, C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_4 - C_{12} heteroaryl, C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl or C_5 - C_{12} heteroaralkyl; or

R₂₆ and R₂₇ together with the common nitrogen are pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine or morpholine, each of which is unsubstituted or mono- to tetra-substituted by C₁-C₄alkyl;

 R_{28} is C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_4 - C_{12} heteroaryl, C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl or C_5 - C_{12} heteroaralkyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{20} or R_{29} ;

 R_{29} is C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkenyl each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy radicals;

 R_{31} is C_6 - C_{12} aryl, C_4 - C_{12} heteroaryl, C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl or C_5 - C_{12} heteroaralkyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{33} ;

 R_{32} is hydrogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylthio, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkylthio, amino, NHR₂₅, NR₂₆R₂₇, R₂₈, halogen, nitro, formyl, N=N-R₂₈, COO-R₂₆, carboxy, carbamoyl, CONH-R₂₆, CONR₂₆R₂₇, N=CR₂₃R₂₄, or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkenyl each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy radicals;

 R_{33} is nitro, SO_2NHR_{26} , $SO_2NR_{26}R_{27}$, or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_{12} alkylthio, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkylthio, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy or C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{19} ; and m is a number from 1 to 10.

- 2. **(currently amended)** An optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein M1 is a trebly positively charged cation._, preferably Co3+, Cr3+, Ru3+, Fe3+, Mn3+, Au3+, Al3+, Sb3+, Bi3+, Sc3+, La3+ or Ce3+, most preferred Co3+ or Cr3+.
- 3. (currently amended) An optical recording medium according to claim 1, or 2, wherein the recording layer comprises a compound of formula (I) wherein A_1 , A_2 , A_3 and A_4 are each independently of the others O, S or $N(R_{14})$ and/or Q_1 , Q_2 and Q_3 are $C(R_{17})$ or N:

G₁, G₂ and G₃ are each independently of the other

 R_1 , R_3 , R_5 , R_7 , R_{10} and R_{16} are each independently of the others hydrogen, R_{18} , or C_6 - C_{12} aryl or C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{18} ;

 R_2 , R_4 , R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are each independently of the others H, F, OH, OCH₃, OCF₃, CH₃, CF₃, C₂H₅, C₂H₂F₃, C₂H₃F₂, C₂F₅, CH₂OH, CF₂OH or CH₂OCH₃;

R₁₄ and R₁₅ are each independently of the others unsubstituted or R₁₉-substituted C₁-C₈alkyl;

 R_{12} and R_{18} are each independently of the other halogen, nitro, cyano, O- R_{23} , CHO, CH=C(CN)₂, CH=C(CN)CONH₂, CH=C(CN)CONH₂₃, CH=C(CN)CONR₂₃R₂₄, CH=C(CN)COOR₂₃, CH=C(COOR₂₃)COOR₂₄, CONH₂, CONHR₂₃, CONR₂₃R₂₄, SO₂C₁-C₁₂alkyl, SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR₂₃, SO₂NR₂₃R₂₄, COOH, COOR₂₃, NHCOR₂₃, NR₂₃COR₃₀, NHCOOR₂₃, NR₂₃COOR₃₀, ureido, P(=O)OR₂₃OR₃₀, sulfo, or C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkylthio or C₁-C₁₂alkoxy each unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{19} ;

 R_{17} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, formyl, $C(R_{16})=CR_{21}R_{22}$, $C(R_{16})=NR_{23}$, $COO-R_{26}$, carboxy, carbamoyl, $CONH-R_{26}$, $CONR_{26}R_{27}$, $N=N-R_{28}$, or C_1-C_{12} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen substituents;

R₁₉ is halogen, hydroxy, O-R₂₆, NH₂, NH-R₂₆, NR₂₆R₂₇, NR₂₆-CO-R₂₅, NR₂₆COOR₂₅, cyano, COO-R₂₆, carboxy, CONH-R₂₆, CONR₂₆R₂₇, sulfato, sulfo, or C₁-C₁₂alkoxy unsubstituted or mono- or polysubstituted by halogen;

 R_{23} , R_{24} and R_{30} are each independently of the others C_1 - C_{12} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, halogen, hydroxy or C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy radicals, or unsubstituted C_6 - C_{12} aryl or C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl; or

 R_{23} and R_{24} together with the common nitrogen are morpholine, or piperidine N-substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

 R_{25} , R_{26} and R_{27} are each independently of the others C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, C_6 - C_{12} aryl or C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl; or

 R_{26} and R_{27} together with the common nitrogen are morpholine, or piperidine N-substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

 R_{31} is unsubstituted or substituted C_6 - C_{12} aryl or C_7 - C_{12} aralkyl; especially a metalloconyl radical; and/or

m is a number from 1 to 4.

4. (currently amended) An optical recording medium according to claim 1, $\frac{2 \text{ or } 3}{2}$, wherein the recording layer comprises a compound of formula (I) wherein Q_1 , Q_2 and Q_3 are $C(R_{17})$; G_1 , G_2 and G_3

are
$$R_7$$
 R_{37} ; and A_1 , A_2 , A_3 and A_4 are O, S or N(R₁₄);

 R_{14} is C_1 - C_2 4alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyl-[O- C_1 - C_4 alkylene]_m or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-[NH- C_1 - C_4 alkylene]_m, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{19} , or C_6 - C_{12} aryl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more, where applicable identical or different, radicals R_{18} ;

R₁₇ is hydrogen, cyano, COO-R₂₆ or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

 R_{18} is halogen, nitro, cyano, O- R_{23} , CH=C(CN)₂, COOR₂₃, ureido, CONR₂₆R₂₇, SO₂R₂₆, P(=O)OR₂₃OR₃₀ or unsubstituted or substituted C₁-C₁₂alkyl; R_{19} is halogen, hydroxy, O- R_{26} , cyano, COO- R_{26} or carboxy; and R_{37} is H, methyl, ethyl or isopropyl. , in-particular H.

5. (currently amended) An optical recording medium according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the

recording layer comprises a compound of formula (I) wherein and/or
$$R_4$$
 R_3 and/or R_5 $R_$

- 6. **(currently amended)** An optical recording medium according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the recording layer is substantially amorphous.
- 7. (currently amended) An optical recording medium according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, additionally comprising a covering layer, wherein substrate, reflector layer, recording layer and covering layer are arranged in that order.
- 8. **(currently amended)** An optical recording medium according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, which in addition to comprising a compound of formula (I) comprises a metal-free chromophore.
- 9. **(currently amended)** A method of recording or playing back data, wherein the data on an optical recording medium according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 are recorded or played back at a wavelength of from 350 to 500 nm.
- 10. (original) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1.

- 11. (original) A compound according to claim 10, wherein R_2 , R_4 , R_6 , R_8 , R_9 and R_{11} are hydrogen.
- 12. **(currently amended)** Use of a compound according to claim 10 or 11-A method of for optical recording, wherein the data is recorded on an optical recording medium containing a compound according to claim 10 preferably at a wavelength of from 350 to 500 nm.
- 13. **(new)** An optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein in formula (I) M₁ is Co(III), Cr(III), Ru(III), Fe(III), Mn(III), V(III), Ti(III), Y(III), Mo(III), W(III), Nb(III), Rh(III), Ta(III), Ir(III), Au(III), Al(III), As(III), Sb(III), Bi(III), Sc(III), La(III), Ce(III), Pr(III), Nd(III), Pm(III), Sm(III), Eu(III), Gd(III), Tb(III), Dy(III), Ho(III), Fr(III), Tm(III), Yb(III) or Lu(III).
- 14. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 13, wherein M₁ is Co(III) or Cr(III).
- 15. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 3, wherein R₃₁ is unsubstituted or substituted especially a metallocenyl radical.
- 16. **(new)** An optical recording medium according to claim 3, wherein in formula (I) M₁ is Co(III), Cr(III), Ru(III), Fe(III), Mn(III), V(III), Ti(III), Y(III), Mo(III), W(III), Nb(III), Rh(III), Ta(III), Ir(III), Au(III), Al(III), As(III), Sb(III), Bi(III), Sc(III), La(III), Ce(III), Pr(III), Nd(III), Pm(III), Sm(III), Eu(III), Gd(III), Tb(III), Dy(III), Ho(III), Er(III), Tm(III), Yb(III) or Lu(III).
- 17. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 15, wherein M₁ is Co(III) or Cr(III).
- 18. (new) An optical recording medium according to claim 4, wherein in formula (I) M₁ is Co(III), Cr(III), Ru(III), Fe(III), Mn(III), V(III), Ti(III), Y(III), Mo(III), W(III), Nb(III), Rh(III), Ta(III), Ir(III), Au(III), Al(III), As(III), Sb(III), Bi(III), Sc(III), La(III), Ce(III), Pr(III), Nd(III), Pm(III), Sm(III), Eu(III), Gd(III), Tb(III), Dy(III), Ho(III), Er(III), Tm(III), Yb(III) or Lu(III).
- 19. **(new)** An optical recording medium according to claim 5, wherein in formula (I) M₁ is Co(III), Cr(III), Ru(III), Fe(III), Mn(III), V(III), Ti(III), Y(III), Mo(III), W(III), Nb(III), Rh(III), Ta(III), Ir(III), Au(III), Al(III), As(III), Sb(III), Bi(III), Sc(III), La(III), Ce(III), Pr(III), Nd(III), Pm(III), Sm(III), Eu(III), Gd(III), Tb(III), Dy(III), Ho(III), Er(III), Tm(III), Yb(III) or Lu(III).